

TO AMEND THE CATAWBA INDIAN TRIBE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT OF 1993

APRIL 2, 2026.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. WESTERMAN, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4463]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4463) to amend the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 4463 is to amend the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Catawba Indian Nation is located by the town of Rock Hill, South Carolina, close to the North Carolina border. In the 1800s, the Catawba Indian Nation was left landless. In 1943, South Carolina purchased 630 acres for the tribe within the boundaries of the tribe's original 15,326-square mile reservation.¹ In 1942, the Catawba Indian Nation began a federal trust relationship, which Congress terminated in 1962 as part of a broader termination policy.² Following litigation and a federal policy shift towards supporting tribal self-determination, Congress restored the Catawba Indian Nation as a federally recognized tribe through the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993 (Settlement Act).³

¹Veronica E. Velarde Tiller, Tiller's Guide to Indian Country: Economic Profiles of American Indian Reservations. 2nd ed. Pg. 913.

²*Id.*

³Congressional Record, H.R. 2399—103rd Congress (1993–1994): Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993.

The Settlement Act approved, ratified, and confirmed the Tribe-State Settlement Agreement between the Catawba Indian Nation and the State of South Carolina. It also resolved the tribe's land claims, provided a financing structure, and established land, leasing, and gaming frameworks. The Settlement Act also explicitly restricted future tribal membership to individuals who were lineal descendants of people on the final base membership roll and who continued to maintain political relations with the tribe.⁴ A review of 74 tribal settlement acts enacted since 1975 indicated that fewer than 10 percent included any provision addressing future tribal membership.⁵ When such provisions were included, they generally stated that future membership was to be governed by tribal constitutions or ordinances.

H.R. 4463, introduced by Representative Ralph Norman (R-SC), strikes the clause in the Settlement Act that establishes future membership criteria. The process for recognizing tribal membership would instead be governed by the Catawba Indian Nation's Constitution.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 4463 was introduced on July 16, 2025, by Representative Ralph Norman (R-SC). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs. On September 9, 2025, the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs held a hearing on the bill. On February 11, 2026, the Committee on Natural Resources met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4463 by unanimous consent. The bill was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs held on September 9, 2025.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Future membership of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina

Section 1 strikes the requirement for lineal descendency and continued political relations with the tribe in determining eligibility for membership in the Catawba Indian Nation.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

⁴Pub. Law 103-116, 107 Stat. 1124.

⁵Email between the Congressional Research Service and Rep. Norman's Staff, dated March 13, 2024.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of House rule XIII and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of House rule XIII and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a budgetary analysis and a cost estimate of this bill.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to amend the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chair of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record upon its receipt by the Committee, if such estimate is not publicly available on the Congressional Budget Office website.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Directed Rule Making. This bill does not contain any directed rule makings.

Duplication of Existing Programs. This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95–220, as amended by Public Law 98–169) as relating to other programs.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

**CATAWBA INDIAN TRIBE OF SOUTH CAROLINA LAND
CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT OF 1993**

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SEC. 7 BASE MEMBERSHIP ROLL.

(a) **BASE MEMBERSHIP ROLL CRITERIA.**—Within one year after enactment of this section, the Tribe shall submit to the Secretary, for approval, its base membership roll. An individual is eligible for inclusion on the base membership roll if that individual is living on the date of enactment of this Act and—

(1) is listed on the membership roll published by the Secretary in the Federal Register on February 25, 1961 (26 FR 1680-1688, “Notice of Final Membership Roll”), and is not excluded under the provisions of subsection (c);

(2) the Executive Committee determines, based on the criteria used to compile the roll referred to in paragraph (1), that the individual should have been included on the membership roll at that time, but was not; or

(3) is a lineal descendant of a Member whose name appeared or should have appeared on the membership roll referred to in paragraph (1).

(b) **BASE MEMBERSHIP ROLL NOTICE.**—Within 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register, and in three newspapers of general circulation in the Tribe’s service area, a notice stating—

(1) that a base membership roll is being prepared by the Tribe and that the current membership roll is open and will remain open for a period of 90 days;

(2) the requirements for inclusion on the base membership roll;

(3) the final membership roll published by the Secretary in the Federal Register on February 25, 1961;

(4) the current membership roll as prepared by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Council; and

(5) the name and address of the tribal or Federal official to whom inquiries should be made.

(c) **COMPLETION OF BASE MEMBERSHIP ROLL.**—Within 120 days after publication of notice under subsection (b), the Secretary, after consultation with the Tribe, shall prepare and publish in the Federal Register, and in three newspapers of general circulation in the Tribe’s service area, a proposed final base membership roll of the Tribe. Within 60 days from the date of publication of the proposed final base membership roll, an appeal may be filed with the Executive Committee under rules made by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Secretary. Such an appeal may be filed by a Member with respect to the inclusion of any name on the proposed final base membership roll and by any person with respect to the

exclusion of his or her name from the final base membership roll. The Executive Committee shall review such appeals and render a decision, subject to the Secretary's approval. If the Executive Committee and the Secretary disagree, the Secretary's decision will be final. All such appeals shall be resolved within 90 days following publication of the proposed roll. The final base membership roll of the Tribe shall then be published in the Federal Register, and in three newspapers of general circulation in the Tribes service area, and shall be final for purposes of the distribution of funds from the Per Capita Trust Fund established under section 11(h).

(d) FUTURE MEMBERSHIP IN THE TRIBE.—The Tribe shall have the right to determine future membership in the Tribe【; however, in no event may an individual be enrolled as a tribal member unless the individual is a lineal descendant of a person on the final base membership roll and has continued to maintain political relations with the Tribe】.

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