

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4634

To require that the Secretary of the Interior hold at least one public hearing in the surrounding community where land requested to be taken into trust for an Indian tribe is located in order to ascertain the needs and interests of that surrounding community.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 17, 2005

Mr. McHUGH (for himself and Mr. BOEHLERT) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To require that the Secretary of the Interior hold at least one public hearing in the surrounding community where land requested to be taken into trust for an Indian tribe is located in order to ascertain the needs and interests of that surrounding community.

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. HEARING REQUIRED.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 6 months before ap-
5 proving any application to take land into trust for an In-
6 dian tribe, the Secretary of the Interior shall hold at least
7 one public hearing (in addition to any hearings held pursu-

1 ant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969)
2 in the surrounding community where the land requested
3 to be taken into trust is located in order to ascertain the
4 needs and interests of that surrounding community. All
5 interested individuals shall be afforded the opportunity to
6 participate in such hearings.

7 (b) TRANSCRIPTS.—The Secretary shall, on a timely
8 basis, make transcripts of such hearings available to the
9 public via the Internet or other electronic means.

10 (c) WAIVER.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if each
11 county in the relevant surrounding community waives the
12 right to such hearings.

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