

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.

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