

Catawba Indian Nation directly into Federal statute. In practical terms, Congress, not the Tribe, set the requirements for who could be a Tribal member going forward.

H.R. 4463 restores sovereignty to the Tribe. It removes Federal membership restrictions and allows the Catawba Indian Nation to determine its own membership under its own constitution and governing processes.

That is how this should work. Deciding who belongs to a Tribe is one of the most basic parts of Tribal self-government. It should be handled by the Tribe through its own laws, not locked into Federal law by Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. NORMAN for his work on this important bill. I support H.R. 4463, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4463, which would respect the principles of self-determination and self-governance by restoring the Catawba Indian Nation's right to determine their own citizenship criteria.

Congress enacted the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina land Claims Settlement Act in 1993 to resolve the Nation's longstanding land claims and provide for monetary settlement funds. The act included a restrictive provision that limited the Nation's enrollment to individuals who could demonstrate both lineal descent from the 1962 final roll and a maintained political relationship with the Tribe.

While the intention of this requirement was to determine eligibility for settlement distributions, which have long been completed, it has had further-reaching implications for the Tribe's ability to enroll its own members.

H.R. 4463 is a simple but meaningful fix to remove this restriction so that the Nation can determine their own citizenship criteria.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4463 is a narrow, commonsense bill. It removes a unique Federal restriction on the Catawba Indian Nation and returns future membership decisions to the Tribe's own constitution and governing processes.

Membership is a core part of Tribal self-government. This bill respects that principle.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman NORMAN for his leadership. I urge passage of H.R. 4463, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4463.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CRYSTAL RESERVOIR CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5911) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the City of Ouray, Colorado, certain land managed by the Forest Service, together with a reservoir, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5911

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Crystal Reservoir Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND TO OURAY, COLORADO.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—*In this section:*

(1) CITY.—*The term "City" means the City of Ouray, Colorado.*

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—*The term "Federal land" means—*

(A) *the site known as "Crystal Reservoir" in Ouray County, Colorado, including—*

(i) *the lake associated with that reservoir;*

(ii) *Full Moon Dam and associated facilities, including the spillway and outlet;*

(iii) *Full Moon Ditch and Reservoir Number 10; and*

(iv) *all infrastructure associated with the reservoir; and*

(B) *the parcel comprising approximately 45 acres of land underlying and surrounding Crystal Reservoir, as depicted on the Map, managed by the Forest Service as necessary for access for repair, operation, and maintenance of Crystal Reservoir and the features described in clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A).*

(3) MAP.—*The term "Map" means the map prepared by the Forest Service entitled "Crystal Reservoir Conveyance" and dated June 23, 2025.*

(4) SECRETARY.—*The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.*

(b) CONVEYANCE.—*As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the City—*

(1) *except as otherwise provided in this Act, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land; and*

(2) *all right, title and interest of the United States in and to any water rights held for use on, appurtenant to, or otherwise associated with the Federal land, including the Full Moon Ditch and Reservoir Number 10 water rights described in the decree of the State of Colorado in Civil Action No. 1959, dated May 11, 1942.*

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—*The conveyance under subsection (b) shall—*

(1) *convey fee simple title to the Federal land;*

(2) *be subject to—*

(A) *valid existing rights;*

(B) *the reservation to the United States, in the deed conveying the Federal land, of easements for each road, trail, and trailhead in existence on the date of the conveyance, together with such additional rights as are reasonably necessary for access, administration, operation,*

maintenance, repair, and replacement of those improvements; and

(C) *the reversionary interest described in subsection (e)(3); and*

(3) *except as provided in subsection (d)(2), be completed at no cost to the City.*

(d) COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall pay all costs associated with the conveyance under subsection (b).*

(2) SURVEY.—*The City shall pay all costs associated with any surveys conducted for the purpose of accomplishing the conveyance under subsection (b).*

(e) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*As a condition of the conveyance of the Federal land under subsection (b), the City shall agree—*

(A) *effective beginning on the date of the conveyance, to assume responsibility for the costs of all repairs, operations, maintenance, replacement, rehabilitation, and regulatory compliance relating to Full Moon Dam and related infrastructure, including Full Moon Ditch and Reservoir Number 10;*

(B) *to maintain the Federal land in perpetuity as open space, to be held open—*

(i) *for public access for recreational activities, including fishing, except as reasonably necessary for public safety, resource protection, emergency response, or the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, or rehabilitation of Full Moon Dam, Crystal Reservoir, or related infrastructure; and*

(ii) *not subject to any fee for recreational access;*

(C) *not to conduct on the Federal land any development, commercial operations, or construction, other than as needed for the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, public safety, and regulatory compliance for dam safety of Full Moon Dam, Crystal Reservoir, and related infrastructure, including Full Moon Ditch and Reservoir Number 10; and*

(D) *not to expand the surface footprint of Crystal Reservoir at normal operating levels (as depicted on the Map) in a manner that would flood, impair, or harm any wetlands located upstream of the Federal land, subject to the condition that deepening Crystal Reservoir in a manner consistent with the water rights of the City shall otherwise be allowed.*

(2) NECESSARY ACTION AGREEMENT.—*The conveyance under subsection (b) shall be made subject to terms agreed to by the Secretary and the City that authorize the City to take such action on the easements described in subsection (c)(2)(B) as the City determines is reasonable and necessary for—*

(A) *public safety;*

(B) *emergency response; or*

(C) *the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, or rehabilitation by the City of Full Moon Dam, Crystal Reservoir, or related infrastructure.*

(3) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—*The conveyance under subsection (b) shall be subject to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.*

(4) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—

(A) WRITTEN NOTICE.—*If the Federal land conveyed under subsection (b) ceases to be used in accordance with the terms and conditions under this subsection the Secretary shall submit to the City written notice with respect to such use.*

(B) REVERSION.—*After the 90-day period beginning on the date written notice is submitted to the City under subparagraph (A), if the Federal land conveyed under subsection (b) continues to be used in a manner not in accordance with the terms and conditions under this subsection during such period, the Federal land shall revert to the United States, at the discretion of the Secretary, if the Secretary determines that reversion is in the best interest of the United States.*

(f) EASEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the conveyance under subsection (b), the Secretary—

(A) shall recognize a perpetual easement for the Red Mountain Ditch for use by the City—

(i) for the purposes relating to the Ditch specified in the decrees entitled “Case No. 1751-B” and “Case No. 2013CW3040” for the State of Colorado, including the diversion and delivery of water (not to exceed 6 cubic feet per second) for storage in Crystal Reservoir and subsequent beneficial use; and

(ii) to access, operate, maintain, repair, replace, or improve the Ditch and its appurtenances for such purposes; and

(B) may require special use authorizations for non-routine maintenance and repairs of Red Mountain Ditch or for the replacement or improvement of the Ditch.

(2) RED MOUNTAIN DITCH DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “Red Mountain Ditch” means the Ditch known as Red Mountain Ditch constructed in or about 1945 located, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, on lands administered by the San Juan National Forest and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest, in Section 14, Township 42 North, Range 8 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian.

(g) WATER RIGHTS.—After the conveyance under subsection (b), the City may use water in Crystal Reservoir for any beneficial use, subject to applicable water laws of the State of Colorado.

(h) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize the Map and a legal description of the Federal land to be conveyed under subsection (b).

(2) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and the City, by mutual agreement, may correct any clerical or typographical errors in the Map or legal description under paragraph (1).

(3) MAP ON FILE.—The Map and legal description under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in each appropriate office of the Forest Service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material to H.R. 5911, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5911, the Crystal Reservoir Conveyance Act, which is sponsored by my colleague on the Natural Resources Committee, Representative HURD. This is a commonsense bill that conveys the Crystal Reservoir, Full Moon Dam and Ditch, and surrounding 45 acres of land from the U.S. Forest Service to the city of Ouray, Colorado.

This legislation reflects a simple but important idea: When a local community depends on reliable access to a re-

source, they should be empowered to take responsibility for it. This is especially true when the Federal Government is no longer in a position to manage that resource effectively.

The city of Ouray is also known as the Outdoor Recreation Capital of Colorado. It is surrounded by Federal land and deeply tied to the Crystal Reservoir. That reservoir is not just a scenic feature. It plays a critical role in wildfire response, supports local agriculture, sustains recreation, and helps to provide water for the community and the city's well-known hot springs.

Today, the reservoir is drained. The aging Full Moon Dam was found to have structural issues. Instead of being quickly repaired to restore access to the reservoir, the dam has been taken offline. This has left Ouray without a critical asset.

H.R. 5911 offers a straightforward solution to make the reservoir operational again by conveying the water infrastructure, water rights, and surrounding land to the city. In doing so, this legislation allows the city to step in, repair the Full Moon Dam, and manage the reservoir in a way that reflects local needs and priorities.

At the same time, this bill includes strong guardrails to ensure the public interest is protected. The land must remain as open space for public recreation with continued access to existing roads and trails. The city must assume full responsibility for operating and maintaining the dam and ensuring compliance with safety requirements. There are clear limitations on development and expansion, including provisions to conserve upstream wetlands.

This transfer of responsibility represents good stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Instead of the Federal Government taking on potentially costly repairs to aging infrastructure, this bill allows a willing and capable partner to assume that burden, ensuring that the people who depend on the infrastructure have a direct stake in its future.

More broadly, this legislation reflects the kind of partnerships we should be encouraging across the country. Communities like Ouray are not asking for less access or less responsibility. They are asking for the ability to manage resources that are essential to their livelihoods, their safety, and their local economies. When we empower these communities, we get faster action and solutions that are tailored to realities on the ground.

H.R. 5911 employs common sense to restore a critical resource, strengthen local water security, support wildfire preparedness, and maintain public access for recreation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this fiscally responsible legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5911 would authorize the conveyance of the Crystal Res-

ervoir in Colorado and its surrounding infrastructure from the U.S. Forest Service to the city of Ouray, Colorado.

In early 2024, the Forest Service was forced to drain this reservoir because the Full Moon Dam had become structurally compromised. For the city of Ouray, this was a crisis. The community relies heavily on this reservoir to maintain its municipal water supply, support vital wildfire preparedness, and sustain the outdoor recreational economy in the Red Mountains.

The bill before us provides a straightforward solution: transfer of the 45-acre area to the city so that Ouray can repair the dam, refill the reservoir, and secure the water rights necessary to protect its residents.

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But just as importantly, this legislation demonstrates exactly the right way to execute a public land conveyance.

This transfer is transparent. It is strictly accountable, and it guarantees that the land will perpetually benefit the public. The bill explicitly mandates that the area be maintained as open space in perpetuity. It guarantees permanent free public access for recreation. It strictly prohibits commercial development, allowing only for necessary dam operations that comply with Colorado water law.

To ensure total accountability, the bill includes a strict reversionary clause that if any of these conditions are violated, the transfer is canceled.

Because this bill was crafted in the right way, it has earned broad and enthusiastic local support. It is backed by the city of Ouray, the towns of Ridgway and Silverton, Ouray and San Juan Counties, and the Ouray County Sheriff.

It has also earned the endorsement of vital community groups, including the Colorado River District, the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, the Trust For Public Land restoration, and the Ouray Trail Group.

Furthermore, this responsible, public-first approach has garnered strong bipartisan support in the Senate, proving that when we prioritize transparency and perpetual public benefit, we can build robust consensus.

H.R. 5911 is a model for how to empower local communities, while protecting public access and conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HURD), the lead sponsor of this bill and the chairman on the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs.

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5911, the Crystal Reservoir Conveyance Act.

I will begin by thanking committee staff, whose hard work helped move this legislation across the finish line.

At its core, this bill reflects a simple principle: Where there is strong local support, a clear public purpose, and appropriate safeguards, decisions should be made by the people closest to the resource.

That principle is, in fact, at the heart of this legislation.

H.R. 5911 would convey the Crystal Reservoir, Full Moon Dam and Ditch, and the surrounding land necessary for their operations to the city of Ouray, along with the associated water rights and infrastructure.

This request came from the city of Ouray itself. It is not a top-down proposal. It is a locally driven solution to a local problem.

For generations, Crystal Reservoir has served the community in multiple ways. It provides water for municipal use and agriculture. It supports recreation. It supports the city's hot springs, and it serves as an important resource for wildfire suppression in a region where that responsibility becomes more and more important each year.

In 2024, structural concerns at Full Moon Dam forced the United States Forest Service to drain the reservoir. Almost overnight, the community lost a resource it had relied upon for generations.

Today, the question before us is straightforward: Who is best positioned to restore, maintain, and manage this resource going forward?

The city of Ouray has answered that question. The city is prepared to assume full responsibility for repair, operation, maintenance, and liability.

The city is prepared to do the work. The city is prepared to bear the responsibility, and the city is prepared to make the long-term investments necessary to restore this important asset.

At the same time, this legislation protects the public interest. It preserves public access. It protects recreational opportunities. It prohibits commercial development. It includes a reversionary provision to ensure that the land continues to be used for its intended purpose, the land remains protected, and the public remains welcome.

The difference is that management moves closer to the people who depend on this resource every day.

This legislation is also good government. At a time when Federal land management agencies face substantial deferred maintenance backlogs, this bill relieves the Federal Government of future operational and maintenance obligations, while placing the resource in the hands of a willing and capable local partner.

In the West, we often say that water is life. This bill recognizes that reality. It respects local stewardship. It respects taxpayers, and it recognizes that communities willing to assume responsibility should be empowered to do so.

This is a story about local responsibility. The community is stepping forward to preserve an important re-

source, maintain public access, and ensure that future generations can continue to benefit from it.

Congress should support that effort. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 5911.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, at its core, this bill is about restoring a public recreation site that is vital to a nearby community. We have an opportunity to turn a stalled Federal asset into a functioning local resource, to replace uncertainty with action, and to show that when communities are ready to step up, Congress is willing to meet them there. That is a result that is worth supporting.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5911, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN SCHOOL ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6162) to transfer certain Federal land into trust for certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6162

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Albuquerque Indian School Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF LAND INTO TRUST FOR THE 19 PUEBLOS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—*In this section:*
(1) 19 PUEBLOS.—*The term "19 Pueblos" means the New Mexico Indian Pueblos of—*

- (A) Acoma;
- (B) Cochiti;
- (C) Isleta;
- (D) Jemez;
- (E) Laguna;
- (F) Nambe;
- (G) Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan);
- (H) Picuris;
- (I) Pojoaque;
- (J) San Felipe;
- (K) San Ildefonso;
- (L) Sandia;
- (M) Santa Ana;
- (N) Santa Clara;
- (O) Santo Domingo;

- (P) Taos;
- (Q) Tesuque;
- (R) Zia; and
- (S) Zuni.

(2) SECRETARY.—*The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.*

(3) SURVEY.—*Except as provided in subsection (e), the term "survey" means the survey plat entitled "Plat of Tracts 1 Thru 3 Lands of US Indian Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs", prepared by Surv-Tek, Inc., and dated May 2023.*

(b) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—*Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall—*

(1) *complete the relocation of all Federal tenants; and*

(2) *transfer to the Secretary administrative jurisdiction over the Federal land described in subsection (d).*

(c) LAND INTO TRUST.—*Not later than 90 days after completion of the relocation of all Federal tenants under subsection (b)(1) and transfer of administrative jurisdiction under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary shall take into trust all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land described in subsection (d) for the benefit of the 19 Pueblos.*

(d) FEDERAL LAND.—*The Federal land referred to in this section is the 3 tracts of Federal land, the combined acreage of which is approximately 9.89 acres, that were historically part of the Albuquerque Indian School and, as of the date of enactment of this Act, are under the administrative jurisdiction of the General Services Administration, more particularly described as follows:*

(1) TRACT 1.—*The approximately 3.57 acres located in secs. 7 and 8 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on which stands a 76,682 square foot warehouse, as identified on the survey.*

(2) TRACT 2.—*The approximately 5.78 acres located in secs. 7 and 8 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the survey.*

(3) TRACT 3.—*The approximately .54 acres located in secs. 7 and 8 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the survey.*

(e) SURVEY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*The Secretary—*
(A) *shall obtain, with respect to the land transferred under subsection (b)(2)—*

(i) *a survey; and*

(ii) *from the Administrator of General Services, copies of all encumbrances of the land; and*
(B) *may make minor corrections to the survey and legal description of the Federal land described in subsection (d) as the Secretary determines to be necessary to correct clerical, typographical, and surveying land title errors.*

(2) AVAILABILITY.—*The survey and all applicable transfer documents obtained under paragraph (1) shall be recorded in the public records of the County Clerk Office of Bernalillo County, New Mexico, and in the appropriate Land Titles and Records Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.*

(f) USE OF LAND.—*The Federal land taken into trust under subsection (c) shall be—*

(1) *used for the educational, health, cultural, business, and economic development of the 19 Pueblos; and*

(2) *subject to Federal laws applicable to Indian trust land in the State of New Mexico.*

(g) LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS.—*The Federal land taken into trust under subsection (c) shall remain subject to any private or municipal encumbrance, right-of-way, restriction, easement of record, or utility service agreement in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.*

(h) CONVEYANCE OF BUILDINGS AND OTHER STRUCTURES.—*Not later than 90 days after the relocation of all Federal tenants in subsection (b)(1) and the transfer of administrative jurisdiction under subsection (b)(2), the United*