

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

INTRODUCED BY M. TROPILA

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ACT TO RESTORE FEDERAL RECOGNITION TO THE LITTLE SHELL TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF MONTANA.

WHEREAS, the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana has been waiting for more than 100 years for its federal recognition to be restored; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the 57th Legislature passed House Joint Resolution 11 expressing its support for federal recognition of the Little Shell Tribe and calling on the federal government to act; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has still not acted to restore federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe; and

WHEREAS, federal recognition of the Little Shell Tribe has broad support within the state of Montana, including the support of the Governor, the Montana Congressional Delegation, the local jurisdictions where the Little Shell Tribe resides, and the other tribes of Montana; and

WHEREAS, federal recognition will restore the Little Shell Tribe to its rightful place among other federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Congressional Delegation has made efforts to restore the Little Shell Tribe's federal recognition; and

WHEREAS, Senator Tester and Senator Daines have introduced the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2015, Senate Bill 35, 114th Congress, and Congressman Zinke has introduced a companion bill in the United States House of Representatives, House of Representatives Bill 286, 114th Congress; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior is reviewing the Little Shell Tribe's appeal for federal recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Montana Legislature urges the federal government to restore federal recognition to the Little



1 Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Legislature applauds the Montana Congressional  
3 Delegation's legislative efforts to restore federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe and calls on the United States  
4 Congress to pass Senate Bill 35 and House of Representatives Bill 286.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Legislature calls on the Department of the Interior to  
6 administratively restore the Little Shell Tribe's federal recognition.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to:

8 (1) the members of the Montana Congressional Delegation;

9 (2) the Secretary of the Department of the Interior;

10 (3) the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs for the Department of the Interior; and

11 (4) the Little Shell Tribal Council.

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