

**- House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs  
26 June 2024**

The House subcommittee held a hearing on two pieces of legislation, [H.R. 1208](#) To amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes and [H.R. 6180](#) Poarch Band of Creek Indians Lands Act.

**Highlights:**

- House Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK; Chickasaw Nation citizen), HR 1208's sponsor, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- His bill applies the Indian Reorganization Act to all federally recognized Indian tribes, regardless of when a Tribe became recognized and is retroactive.
- This effectively overrules the Supreme Court's decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar*, which held that Interior could not take land into trust for a specified tribe because that tribe had not been under federal jurisdiction when the Indian Reorganization Act was enacted in 1934.

**Full notes:**

Poarch Band Creek Indians Chairwoman Stephanie A. Bryan testified, estimating the Carcieri decision resulted in her Tribe spending \$10 million in legal fees to challenge its ruling's impact.

The Department of the Interior's Deputy Asst. Secretary Kathryn Isom-Clause estimated around 12 cases have been brought contesting BIA trust acquisition approval because of Carcieri. Each case takes around two years minimum, with 10 years maximum in the federal court system alone.