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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is a
3 federally-recognized Indian tribe that originally occupied
4 homelands in southern Wisconsin, northern Illinois, and
5 northwestern Indiana; and

6 WHEREAS, Members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
7 were signatories to the 1829 Treaty of Prairie du Chien, which
8 reserved two sections of land near Paw Paw Grove, Illinois for
9 Potawatomi Chief Shab-eh-nay and his band; and

10 WHEREAS, Shortly thereafter, the Potawatomi people of
11 northern Illinois were removed from their homelands in
12 connection with the U.S. Indian Removal Policy of the 1830s;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation relinquished
15 nearly all of their initial 28 million-acre homeland in the
16 Great Lakes area when the Treaty of Chicago was signed only
17 three years later; and

18 WHEREAS, The 1833 Treaty of Chicago did not cede the
19 Shab-eh-nay Reservation to the U.S., but instead it reaffirmed
20 the reservation established for Chief Shab-eh-nay and his band
21 in the 1829 Treaty of Prairie du Chien; and

1 WHEREAS, Because the land reserved for Chief Shab-eh-nay
2 and his band in Illinois was expressly reserved by the U.S.
3 Senate when it ratified the Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1829,
4 the land belonged to Chief Shab-eh-nay and his band despite
5 the removal of most of his tribe to lands in Kansas; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1849, while Chief Shab-eh-nay was away
7 visiting relatives in Kansas, the U.S. General Land Office
8 illegally sold the land and passed the title to non-natives;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Since then, individuals, the State of Illinois,
11 the DeKalb county government, and corporate entities assumed
12 ownership of lands within the Shab-eh-nay Reservation and
13 continue to occupy Shab-eh-nay's lands to the present day; and

14 WHEREAS, The current non-Indian occupants within the
15 Shab-eh-nay Reservation should not be held liable for
16 occupying the land; and

17 WHEREAS, The federal government has admitted that it
18 violated federal law when it sold the Shab-eh-nay Reservation
19 in 1849; and

20 WHEREAS, Only congress can affirm the Prairie Band

1 Potawatomi Nation's authority within the reservation, resolve
2 any damages owed to them, and clear the land title of the
3 state, county, and local residents; and

4 WHEREAS, The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation seeks a
5 complete resolution of all issues relating to the Shab-eh-nay
6 Reservation through congressional recognition of its land
7 ownership and the taking of land by the federal government;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we support the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's efforts to
12 regain possession of Chief Shab-eh-nay and his band's land
13 that was illegally sold by the federal government in 1849; and
14 be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we urge the federal government to enact
16 legislation to address the ownership of the Shab-eh-nay
17 Reservation reserved for Chief Shab-eh-nay and his descendants
18 under the Treaty of Chicago in 1833.