

H.R. _____, removing a class II gaming restriction for the Bridgeport Indian Colony

Rep. Paul Cook

What is it?

This bill would remove the class II gaming restrictions for land taken into trust for the Bridgeport Indian Colony in 2012. This legislation leaves in place the class III gaming restriction. Class II gaming includes games of chance like bingo and lottery games. Class II gaming does not include casino style gambling

Why does this gaming restriction need to be removed?

The land taken into trust for the Bridgeport Indian Colony in 2012 was meant to be used for economic development. Bridgeport Indian Colony and Mono County both agreed to a plan of what the economic development would look like before the legislation passed Congress. The economic development plan called for development of housing for tribal members, a community center, and a gas station and convenience store. Like most convenience stores, the tribe planned to sell lottery games to increase the economic viability of the gas station.

However, with the class II restriction placed on the trust land in the 2012 act, the tribe cannot proceed with developing the gas station and convenience store part of their economic plan. Congressional legislation is required to remove the class II restriction.

Why was the Class II restriction included in the first place?

Unfortunately, the legislative record is unclear. Bridgeport Indian Colony was not aware of the restriction being included in 2012, until the legislation was passed. The tribe is now seeking to remedy the unintended error so they can move forward with their economic development plan and achieve more self sufficiency for tribal members.

If you have questions or would like to be added as a cosponsor, please contact Jocelyn Broman (jocelyn.broman@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Cook's office.