

Message to BIA: No land into trust for Cayugas

Posted by srapp June 17, 2009 20:08PM



Li-Hua Lan / Post-Standard
The Bureau of Indian Affairs hearing on the Cayuga Indian Nation's request to put 125 acres into federal trust attracts a huge crowd of local citizens at New York Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls Wednesday night.

SENECA FALLS, NY -- The federal Bureau of Indian Affairs got an earful Wednesday night on the Cayuga Indian Nation's bid to place about 125 acres of ancestral homeland in Cayuga and Seneca counties into federal trust.

Hundreds of people, possibly 1,000 or more, jammed into the athletic center at the New York Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls for the last hearing on the nation's bid to be awarded sovereign tax-free land from the BIA.

The message from those who spoke was clear and emphatic.

Speaker after speaker railed on the Cayugas' land-trust application and also took the BIA to task for declaring in its draft environmental impact statement that awarding trust land to the nation would not have a significant negative impact on Cayuga and Seneca counties.

In general, the speakers said awarding trust land to the Cayugas would give the nation's businesses an unfair competitive edge over area tax-paying merchants and unfairly burden property taxpayers.

"They can buy land and pay taxes like everyone else. Please do the right thing for Seneca and Cayuga counties and deny the land trust," implored Roberta Halden, of Seneca Falls.

Kevin Swartley, president of the Seneca County Farm Bureau, said granting trust land to the Cayugas would hurt local businesses and jobs, erode the tax base and harm the environment because the trust land would be free from environmental regulations.

"Land into trust is the wrong solution," Swartley said.

Speaking first, Clint Halftown, the Cayugas' federally recognized representative, said the Cayugas are entitled to the trust land because the parcels are part of the nation's original 64,015-acre reservation around the north end of Cayuga Lake.

The nation plans to reopen its Class II gaming halls in Union Springs and Seneca Falls if the 125 acres are put into trust, Halftown said.

"The acceptance of our lands into trust will enable our nation to generate revenues from our convenience stores (in Union Springs and Seneca Falls) and Class II gaming facilities ... to fund tribal programs and services," he said.

The Department of Interior is to make a ruling after the BIA issues a final environmental impact statement. The BIA will accept written comments up to July 6.

Halftown was the only one of 23 speakers in the first 90 minutes to favor the nation's trust application.

The hearing also afforded lawmakers from both counties and spokespeople for area state and federal representatives to weigh in. All but Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY, said they opposed the trust application.

"The negative impact of this action would be huge," Seneca County lawmaker David Dresser said.

Halftown said before the hearing started that he is confident the Cayugas will be awarded the trust land.

"Because it's our land legally and morally," he said.

Contact Scott Rapp at srapp@syracuse.com or 253-7316.

Categories: Breaking News, Cayuga County, Top News

Comments

samedude says...

Maybe the tide is finally turning? That would be nice. Tell Halftown the party may be over.

Posted on 06/17/09 at 9:53PM

razzberry says...

This Indian thing is out of control send them packing abck to the reservation unless they want to cough up some tax dollars.....

Posted on 06/17/09 at 10:49PM

capwasteh20 says...

What is is so "moral" and "legal" about a certain group of fellow American citizens who would thumb their noses at laws and regulations that are supposed to be applicable to ALL?

Posted on 06/17/09 at 10:55PM

shadesapart says...

I've been conflicted regarding this issue for some time now. Our taxes pay for the roads they drive on outside their reservations as well as all the other amenities they take full advantage and they put next to nothing in. I would like to see toll booths put around the reservations so when they leave ?their land? they pay for the

Hundreds fight for Cayuga Nation land trust

Updated: 06/16/2009 05:05 AM

By: Kat DeMarco

SENECA COUNTY, N.Y. — Plans like this have a lot of steps and one of the things that has to happen is there has to be a study of whether a change would have an impact on the environment.



The government released a draft statement saying the 125-acre land trust would not negatively affect the environment. Wednesday night's meeting was to get public input about that.

Judging by the hundreds of people who packed the meeting room, there is fierce opposition to this proposal, environmental and otherwise, and opponents wanted to make sure their voices were heard. The crowd of people, from Cayuga and Seneca counties, is fired up.

"These particular counties are extremely hostile toward any action the Cayuga Nation attempts to take," said Lee Alcott, Cayuga Nation Attorney.

The Cayuga are asking for 125 acres of their land to go into trust and become sovereign.

"The nation needs to have its land sovereign so it can reopen its business, which are essential to its economic well-being and the operation of its tribal programs," said Lee.

Hundreds of people whose homes and businesses surround the Cayuga land attended a public meeting to tell the government the nation's well-being could come at the expense of their own.

"We could have a tax situation. We could have an infrastructure situation. We certainly can have an environmental impact and certainly the playing field is not level once land gets put into trust," said Richard Giovannini, a Fayette resident.

Sovereignty would exempt Cayuga from paying taxes on their land and the goods they sell on it.

"Near 200 year ago, I felt bad for the Indians. But now, it's supposed to be equal, everybody's supposed to follow the same laws. What makes them so special," asked Star Gregor, a Waterloo resident.

"They can have land. But they have to act like any other citizen. They can't get any special privilege," said Charles Carroll, a Waterloo resident.

The Cayuga's attorney says actually, they can.

"When it comes to issues of whether the Cayuga Nation is sovereign or not, it's a matter of federal law. And some of these issues are simply not open to opinion or debate," said Lee.

Still, many are hoping a debate, spirited or otherwise, will lead to a solution everyone can tolerate.

"I just want to see everybody settle this in an amicable way. We want to have everybody work together. We want a peaceful solution," said Fran Emerson, a Waterloo resident.

What happens next is the draft statement, Wednesday's comments and responses to

those are made into a final environmental impact statement.

Comments can be sent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs through the beginning of next month.

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BIA public hearing gets heated

By Christopher Caskey / The Citizen

Thursday, June 18, 2009 12:13 AM EDT

Print Page

SENECA FALLS - Bureaucratic acronyms were not very popular Wednesday night at New York Chiropractic College, as hundreds of people descended on the school's gym to decry the BIA and its DEIS on an application by the CIN.

Government officials, business representatives and residents alike voiced their opinions during a public hearing on the Cayuga Indian Nation's application to put approximately 130 acres of land in Cayuga and Seneca counties into federal trust.

The hearing was organized by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, which was seeking comment on its recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning the application.

Speakers at the hearing were overwhelmingly opposed to putting land into trust. Not a single member of the public had voiced support for the Cayugas by 9 p.m., though there were still many people in line to talk three hours into the hearing.

Most speakers took exception with what they called flaws in the BIA's environmental report, which states that effects on the local environment, infrastructure and economy would be negligible at most if the land is put into trust.

The 77 people who signed up to talk had a wide array of concerns. But four larger issues came up over and over again:

- * The effect on public services and local taxpayers if the land comes off the tax rolls.
- * The inability of local businesses to compete if Cayuga-owned stores can sell gas and cigarettes without charging sales tax.
- * The worry that the nation will open and expand gambling operations.
- * Possible environmental effects stemming from the fact that any development or business on federal-trust land does not have to follow state zoning or environmental regulations.

Cayuga County Legislator George Fearon called the BIA's draft impact statement "grossly deficient" while speaking during the hearing. The report, Fearon said, looks at current economic and environmental data without projecting to what could happen after the land achieves federal trust status.

"When something that is supposed to last forever is set up, how can values and projections be made based on current and past statistics?" he asked.



Jill Connor / The Citizen

A woman holds a sign expressing her opinion at the public hearing on the Cayuga Nation's Land into Trust proposal at New York Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls on Wednesday.

Though the event was a government hearing, it often resembled a political rally. Attendees shouted and applauded when speakers made strong statements against the Cayugas, the BIA or the land trust.

One such speaker was Brad Jones, who tried to address the crowd and turned his back to the BIA representatives when he reached the podium. Loud boos were hurled at the representatives when they turned off Jones' microphone and told him to direct his comments to the BIA.

"It really has nothing to do with Native Americans," Jones said of the land trust application after finally turning around. "It has to do with two groups, politicians and lawyers."

State and federal officials also voiced their opinions through staffers who read prepared statements. Members of the state assembly Gary Finch and Brian Kolb both oppose the land trust application, as does state Sen. Michael Nozzolio. U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri's and Sen. Charles Schumer's statements also criticized putting land into trust, though they both called for a settlement reached by both parties.

A representative from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's office was booed by the crowd when she said she was at the hearing to listen and relay the responses back to the senator.

If the non-adjacent properties owned by the Cayuga Indian Nation are put into federal trust, the properties are removed from tax rolls and become exempt from local laws and regulations.

Cayuga representatives have said in the past that these lands are part of a reservation already recognized by the federal government.

A handful of representatives from the Cayuga Indian Nation attended the hearing, and Clint Halftown made a statement at the very beginning of the meeting. Halftown said the Treaty of Canandaigua established Cayuga land as a sovereign reservation in 1794.

"This treaty remains valid, and our reservation continues to exist to this day," Halftown said while reading the statement.

The public hearing is part of a public review and comment period on the draft environmental study. The public will be able to make written comments through July 6 before the final environmental statement is released.

At that point, the BIA will decide whether to allow the land to be placed into trust.

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LOUD, CLEAR AND OFTEN

by DAVID L. SHAW/dshaw@flltimes.com

SENECA FALLS — The message was loud, clear and often-repeated at Wednesday night's public hearing.

All but four of the nearly 80 speakers soundly rejected the conclusion of a draft environmental impact statement that putting 129 acres of Cayuga Indian Nation land in Cayuga and Seneca counties into federal trust would not have any significant impacts.

Putting the land into trust, speaker after speaker said, would have many negative impacts and should not be approved.

The hearing, sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, was at New York Chiropractic College. It drew a crowd of more than 1,000 and lasted more than four hours.

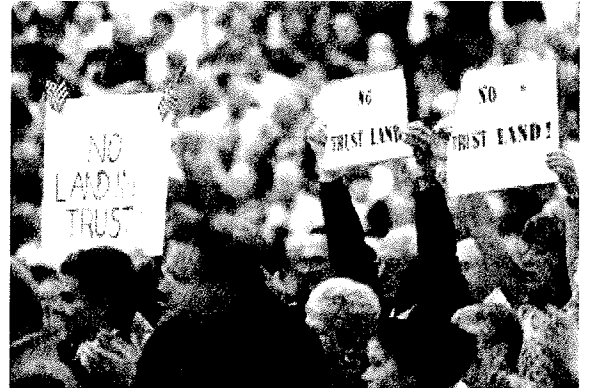
Most of the opponents hammered on common themes, including:

- Putting the land into trust would make it exempt from local property taxes, increasing the property tax burden for non-Indian property owners;
- The land would be exempt from local and state environmental, zoning and other regulations that other property owners have to follow;
- The Cayugas' convenience stores and other businesses would be in trust and would continue to not pay state excise taxes or state and county sales taxes on cigarettes, gasoline and other products they sell, putting stores that pay and charge those taxes at a disadvantage;
- The Cayugas would use profits from their businesses to buy more land, taking it off the tax rolls, further burdening others;
- The Nation would require basic local governmental services but would not have to pay for them;
- It would perpetuate a system of separate entities, rather than a single nation.

The hearing began with Clint Halftown, the Cayuga Nation leader, reading a statement on why the tribe wants the 129 of its 895 acres put into trust.

"Part of this land is the 64,015 acres that was guaranteed to our Nation as reservation land under the Treaty of Canandaigua, a treaty between our Nation and the federal government, signed by President George Washington in 1794," Halftown said.

He said that treaty remains valid and their reservation still exists, with the 129 acres purchased at market



SPENCER TULIS/Finger Lakes Times Some of the more than 1,000 people who filled the gymnasium at New York Chiropractic College Wednesday hold up signs opposing the Cayuga Indian Nation's efforts to place some of their lands in Seneca and Cayuga counties into federal trust. All but four of the nearly 80 speakers voiced their opposition to the draft environmental impact statement related to the tribe's application.

value from willing sellers. Halftown said federal law provides for the trust process as the appropriate mechanism for Indians having sovereign land.

He also cited federal policies that gave tribes the right to self-government and self determination, with the support of the federal government.

"The Nation's trust application is completely consistent with federal policies that support tribal self governance and economic independence," Halftown said.

"The acceptance of our land in trust will enable our Nation to generate revenues to resume convenience stores and Class II gaming facilities in Union Springs and Seneca Falls to fund tribal programs and services he said. "It will also enable our Nation to regain tribal jurisdiction of our lands."

He said the Cayugas would continue to operate their businesses, adding that they do not have plans for an new development on those properties.

For the next three hours, however, the BIA was urged to reject the impact statement as flawed and to der the trust application.

The first to oppose the draft report and the trust application were representatives of state Assemblymen Gary D. Finch, R-123 of Springport, and Brian M. Kolb, R-129 of Canandaigua; state Sen. Michael F. Nozzolio, R-54 of Fayette; Sen. Charles Schumer; and Congressman Michael A. Arcuri, D-Utica. A representative of Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand gave a short statement saying the senator was studying the issue, drawing a boos from the audience.

Schumer's aide said he opposes the Cayuga application because land in trust is designed for Western state with a lot of land, not for Eastern tribes.

Joan Grela, speaking for Nozzolio, said his position regarding the trust is "not here, not now and not ever."

Arcuri's representative said trust granted by the BIA for the Oneida Land Nation in Oneida County has been a disaster that he doesn't want to see repeated in Cayuga and Seneca counties.

A crowd of more than 1,000 applauded after the speakers criticized the DEIS and the trust application.

"The report is inaccurate, incomplete, misleading and biased," said Ovid Supervisor David Dresser, chairman of the Seneca County Board of Supervisors' Indian Affairs Committee.

"It also will see enormous profits to be made on the illegal sale of untaxed cigarettes and gasoline to expar their land and operate businesses that have an unfair advantage over the business," Dresser said.

Many speakers that followed cited the loss of property taxes and sales tax revenue, which they said will increase the burden on other property owners — none of which they said was addressed by the draft repor

Others railed against the trust land being exempt from regulations and the Cayuga wanting government services and infrastructure without paying for those services.

Bradford Jones, former Seneca Falls mayor, tried to face the crowd and not the two BIA officials in making his remarks. His microphone was cut off twice until he finally turned toward the front.

"This is not about Native Americans. It's about politicians and lawyers. We need to take our message that this isn't fair to our federal representatives," Jones said.

Several farm owners spoke against the trust for tax and environmental reasons. John Young, a convenience store association official, focused on the sales tax issue.

Former Seneca Falls county supervisor Richard Ricci prompted a standing ovation with his remarks. He ridiculed the draft report claim of no significant impacts and blasted the BIA for its support of several questionable Indian tribe activities.

"Let's be honest. We all know the outcome of this process. You will OK the application," Ricci said.

"But we will challenge you every step of the way. We're mad as hell and we're not going to stand for it anymore," he said, walking away to thunderous applause.

Officials from the Seneca Falls and Union Springs school districts both spoke in opposition, citing the negative impacts on tax revenues that could hurt their educational programs.

Retired bank president Robert Kernan of Seneca Falls said Seneca County's economy changed for the worse since he arrived in 1979, when it was thriving.

"If this ends up causing higher taxes and declining services, it will be the last nail in our coffin," he said.

Lisa Fitzgerald read a statement from ITT-Goulds Pumps President Robert Pagano, opposing the trust application because any increase in Goulds' tax burden as the county's largest private employer would make it less competitive in the market. That could hurt local employment and operations, he said.

Other opposition came from Seneca County Manager Suzanne Sinclair, Seneca County Board of Supervisor Chairman LaVerne Lafler, Cayuga County Legislature Chairman Peter Tortorici, Aurelius Supervisor Edward Ide, Seneca Falls Supervisor Peter Same, Seneca Falls Mayor Diana Smith and Auburn Mayor Michael Quill.

Other support for the Cayugas came from Jack Rossen, a Cayuga County resident and professor at Ithaca College. He said the Cayugas were the original settlers of the area and have been unjustly treated in regard to their land.

He said the Cayugas care about the environment, noting the irony of people expressing concern about the Cayugas when "you allow a landfill that takes garbage from New York City and is the biggest in the state," referring to Seneca Meadows Landfill in Seneca Falls.

Regarding taxes, Rossen cited corporate tax breaks given through the Empire Zone program. His remarks were booed, with a smattering of applause.

After a break, the attacks continued. Two more people supported the Nation, but most urged that no land be put into trust.

All comments, which were recorded, will be transcribed and considered by BIA officials in developing a final environmental impact statement. Written comments will be accepted until July 6 and will also be considered.

The final report will be followed by a decision on the trust application.

"It was what we expected. We've heard it before and from many of the same people," Halftown said during the break. "We disagree."

At issue

The Cayuga Indian Nation applied in 2005 to put 129 acres in federal trust — 114 acres in Cayuga County and 15 acres in Seneca County.

The Cayugas own 895 acres in the two counties. The trust application is for seven parcels, five of which are contiguous. They consist of two parcels of 14 acres in Seneca Falls — the site of the LakeSide Trading store, gas station and campground — and 111 acres in Union Springs, including the LakeSide Trading store, gas station, car wash and vacant land, plus 3.5 acres in Springport and one-tenth of an acre in Montezuma.

The draft environmental impact statement is required for the trust application by the National Environment Protection Act of 1969.

Coushattas, Israel establish friendship ties

By Melinda Deslatte
Elton, Louisiana (AP)

Coushatta and Israeli representatives said they could identify with each other over their searches for a sovereign identity and homeland.

The Coushatta Tribe proclaimed its friendship with Israel in a ceremony during November marking the expected start of a relationship with the Mideast state as the Louisiana tribe seeks to extend beyond gambling ventures with Israeli help into new businesses.

The event, colorfully highlighted by a traditional "stomp" dance, marked the first time a Native American tribe has signed an "affirmation of friendship" with the State of Israel, said Asher Yarden, Israel's consul general based in Houston.

Coushatta and Israeli representatives said they could identify with each other over their searches for a sovereign identity and homeland.

The southwestern Louisiana tribe hopes to develop unspecified business relationships. Members of the Israeli delegation pointed to information technology as a likely sector for financial partnerships.

"It is natural that we feel a connection to you and your people," Kevin Sickey, chairman of the Coushatta Tribal Council, told Yarden and the Israeli delegation. "You stand for the same fundamental principles and values upon which the sovereign nation of Coushatta was (founded): freedom and opportunity, justice and deep respect for your history

and culture."

The 862 Coushatta are among 3,370 members of four federally recognized tribes in Louisiana; their tribe is the second-largest. The state recognizes another 10 tribes with more than 33,100 members, said Mark Ford, director of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs. Another four are listed as "other tribes" on the office's Web site.

Sickey said the establishment of ties with Israel was the tribe's first foray abroad. Because the tribe is federally recognized, it is permitted under U.S. law to pursue its interests internationally.

He said Israel was chosen because of similar plights of the Native Americans and Jews and the relative youth of each as a sovereign nation. The tribe was officially recognized by the U.S. government in 1973, only a few decades after Israel was created in 1948.

Tribal dancers commemorated the event with a traditional dance by men and boys in feathered cowboy hats tracing circular steps with women and girls in prairie-style skirts and bead necklaces. Native singing mixed with the sound of the women marking rhythm with pebble-

filled tin cans tied to their legs.

The tribe owns and operates a lucrative casino in nearby Kinder that employs more than 2,700 people. The tribe is not required to report its revenue but is believed to be financially well-off because of the business.

Both sides called the event unprecedented. However, Yarden said the agreement was not to be construed as the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations - a more sensitive negotiation that Yarden said his office was not authorized to conduct.

Yarden led the Israeli delegation from Houston to the tiny town of Elton and the reservation for the Coushatta Tribe, which holds 8,000 acres of land nestled near rice fields and farming communities in the sparsely populated area.

"At first glance, one may ask the question, 'What two peoples possibly have less in common than that of Israel and Coushatta?' Well, the truth of the matter is we're not so different after all," Yarden said.

The Israeli delegation said the country has no similar relations with other Native American tribes.

The signing ceremony was a major event on the reservation as about 300 people watched. Banners bearing the Star of David and the Coushatta seal were attached to power poles, the gas station cafe shut down, and schoolchildren attended the ceremony, held in a field near the tribe's administration building.

Tribal leaders signed the friendship proclamation at a small, ornate wooden table set on a stage and presented it to the Israeli delegation before the ceremonial dance began.

Crystal Williams, one of the dancers, said the stomp dance tradition was revived this year as members of the tribe seek to re-establish Coushatta customs and language.

"Many of the songs that accompany these dances are lost. There are a lot of traditions that have been lost," said Williams.

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FIND YOUR PLACE

Native American An Activist For Israel

By MICA ROSENBERG

(New York) — Rarely do Native Americans speak out on the issue of Israel.

That is, except for Santos Hawk's Blood Suarez, a Native American in New Jersey who calls himself a "one-man crusade" for the Jewish state.

He and a small band of supporters have participated in several pro-Israel marches, like the Youth Walk for Israel held in October in Monmouth County, N.J.

When Native Americans come up in media and political discussions about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, parallels are drawn between Palestinians in the occupied territories and Native Americans in the United States.

But Hawk's Blood Suarez, a 50-year-old Apache originally from Texas, denies the connection.

"We were highly offended when things came out in the media comparing Native Americans to Palestinians," he says.

Instead, he sees strong similarities between the Native Americans and Jews: Both people were targeted for extermination and both have lived in exile, he says.

In fact, some say the Native Americans should take heart from the example of the Jews, who showed that it is possible for a people to return to its native land and revive its ancient language after an exile of 2,000 years.

Native Americans, who number approximately 2.5 million in the United States, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, were forced by the U.S. government to live on reservations.

"I admire the people who" take a stand, and "that's why I admire the people of Israel: They're people who stand up to defend their homeland," Hawk's Blood Suarez says. "We are not with the Palestinian people."

But many Native Americans find it more difficult to take sides — and some take issue with Suarez's support of Israel.

William Means, a board member of the International Indian Treaty Council, calls the situation in Israel "the most difficult political issue in our community" today, because Native Americans can identify with both Jews and Palestinians.

Means, whose organization works with the United Nations on human rights for indigenous peoples around the world, says that Native Americans oppose any system of reservation and settlement and can sympathize with the situation of the Palestinians.

But at the same time, Means says, strong relationships have been built "in this country with Jewish people in the struggles for the civil rights" of Native Americans. In 1973, during clashes at Wounded Knee, S.D., more than 500 Native American activists were jailed after clashes with U.S. federal forces.

At that time "upwards of 80 percent of our lawyers were Jewish," Means says.

The maverick Hawk's Blood Suarez — who directs the New Jersey Chapter of the Confederation of the American Indian Movement, an autonomous offshoot of AIM that was formed in the early 1990s — came to support Israel through a personal experience.

Several years ago, he arrived in New Jersey from Texas to protest the development of baseball fields on the site of an ancient burial ground of the Lenape, the tribe that inhabited New York before the Dutch arrived in the 17th century.

There he became friendly with New York Times photographer Nancy Wegard, who was covering the protest. Her mother is a Holocaust survivor from Lithuania, and her late father was a U.S. Army investigator who uncovered mass graves during his tour in Europe.

The Wegard family introduced Hawk's Blood Suarez to the matzah ball soup, and he learned more about Jewish history during his time with them. He later took it upon himself to start demonstrating for Israel.

"We were completely surprised" when he showed up at the Walk for Israel march wearing a Start of David, New Jersey JCC volunteer Jeff Ginsberg says.

"He pointed out parallel after parallel between their tribe and ours," says Ginsberg, who has become friends with Hawk's Blood since the march. "The last time that I saw him, he was wearing an IDF T-shirt."

In addition to the New Jersey event, Hawk's Blood Suarez and a small group of Native Americans participated in this year's Israel Independence Day parade in New York.

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Land trust hearing is a

now-or-never opportunity

To the Editor: *J. Same*
Seneca and Cayuga County residents: The time is now! Speak now or forever hold your peace! June 17 at 6 p.m., New York Chiropractic College gym — be there!

The process of the Cayuga Nation applying to put its land into trust has reached an important milestone. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is holding a public hearing on their Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This is just another step that will lead us to the final decision: no land-into-trust in Seneca and Cayuga counties. Ultimately this action will reach the Supreme Court and it will be over. Hallelujah!

Over — this is easier said than done. We must make our case and the only way to do that is to show up on the 17th and speak. We need the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs to realize that this DEIS is a joke. Little to no impact — but then what would you expect from the arm of the federal government that's sole purpose in life is to protect Native Americans, without assessing the impact on other "native" Americans: you and I.

If you think taxes are high today then think about what they could be! Currently this group of Cayugas owns close to 1,000 acres in both counties. If they are allowed to continue their illegal operations of selling untaxed tobacco products and gasoline and then re-open the class III gaming facility we better just roll up the sidewalks and turn out the lights because we won't be able to continue to live the good life in our beautiful Finger Lakes. Their recognized leader, Clint Halftown, says they will continue to buy land until they can reclaim the entire 64,000 acres that they originally laid claim to.

This is it folks! If we don't make our case now then "pooh" on us! Please show up and bring the neighborhood and be prepared to stay the distance. It will be a long night, but well worth the effort and in the end we will have sent the message: no sovereign land in Seneca and Cayuga counties!

6-11-89 PETER SAME
Seneca Falls Town Supervisor