

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR
PAMELA A. HELMING
54TH DISTRICT

CHAIR
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON RURAL RESOURCES

VICE-CHAIR
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME AND CORRECTION

COMMITTEES
BANKS
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CONSUMER PROTECTION
CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
HIGHER EDUCATION
SOCIAL SERVICES

TASK FORCE MEMBER
HEROIN AND OPIOID ADDICTION
LYME AND TICK BORNE DISEASES
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

May 2, 2018

Mr. Bruce W. Maytubby, Sr.
Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Eastern Regional Office

Dear Mr. Maytubby:

It has come to my attention that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is considering an application by the tribe to place 129.1 acres located in Cayuga and Seneca Counties "in trust." The Cayuga Indian Nation has already purchased 1,300 acres of land in the two counties. They do not pay property taxes for these land holdings as they are in trust. Additionally, they operate several businesses, which do not pay sales tax. This has had a devastating impact on other local businesses which pay taxes and comply with all local, state, and federal laws, many from which the Cayuga's are exempt. The addition of 129.1 acres will only add to this burden.

If the Cayuga Indian Nation is granted land-into-trust status, they will be allowed to develop and reap the financial rewards from land in Cayuga and Seneca Counties without having to obey most local and state laws. Additionally, they will be exempted from paying local property taxes, which support our schools and infrastructure. Instead, this burden will fall entirely on other local residents who are already paying more than their fair share. My constituents have been deeply affected by this dire situation and it is only a matter of time before this inequity becomes irreparable.

Therefore, I strongly urge the Bureau of Indian Affairs to deny this request. If I can provide further information or be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Helming
Senator, 54th District

