

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

CAYUGA NATION,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	
)	Case No. 1:20-cv-1581-ABJ
)	
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	
_____)	

DECLARATION OF BRYAN NEWLAND

I, Bryan Newland, declare and state as follows:

1. I am the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs at the United States Department of the Interior. I was nominated for this position by the President on April 22, 2021, confirmed by the Senate on August 7, 2021, and sworn in on September 8, 2021. As Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, I possess final decision making authority for the Department’s fee-to-trust acquisition decisions for gaming-eligible properties, including any future decision on the Cayuga Nation’s application at issue in this case, as described below.
2. On July 31, 2020, my predecessor issued a decision denying the Cayuga Nation’s application to have 114 acres of land in Cayuga County, New York, taken into trust by the United States for the Tribe’s benefit. I am familiar with the July 31, 2020 decision.
3. On November 8, 2021, the Cayuga Nation submitted new information to the Department of the Interior relevant to the Nation’s fee-to-trust application and the Department’s prior denial of that application. I have undertaken a preliminary review of the new information,

including in consideration of the administrative record for the Department's July 31, 2020 decision.

4. On November 22, 2021, I directed Department staff to inform the Cayuga Nation that, following my preliminary review, I have decided to reopen the Tribe's fee-to-trust application and reconsider the July 31, 2020 denial of that application. Though estimates for decision-making timelines often change in the face of unforeseen events or other matters requiring the Department's attention, I currently anticipate that the Department's new review of the Tribe's application will take approximately six months. At the conclusion of that process, I intend to issue a new decision on the Tribe's application.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed this 7th day of December, 2021.



Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior