



S. 2457 – A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR EXTENSIONS OF LEASES OF CERTAIN LAND BY MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT (WESTERN) TRIBE

FLOOR SITUATION

S. 2457 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) on December 12, 2007. The House Committee on Natural Resources agreed to the bill by unanimous consent on April 17, 2008.

SUMMARY

S. 2457 authorizes the Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe to include an option to renew any lease to their lands for no more than two additional terms of up to twenty-five years per term. The bill also provides that the U.S. is not to be held liable for losses resulting from any renewal of these leases. Additionally, the bill prohibits gaming activities from being conducted on any lands leased with the renewal option authorized by S. 2457.

BACKGROUND

The Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe is a Native American tribe settled in 1666 in Connecticut along the Thames River. Currently, the Tribe's reservation, which is 1,250 acres, is one of the oldest continuously occupied Indian reservations in North America.

Under current law, the Tribe may only grant leases for a term of no more than 25 years. The Tribe is seeking the lease extension included in S. 2457 to enter into longer leasing arrangements to accommodate non-gaming commercial developments on their lands, which includes the Foxwoods Resort and casino owned by the Tribe.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office "estimates that implementing S. 2457 would have no significant effect on the federal budget."

[Full CBO cost estimate for S. 2457](#)

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