To the Honourable the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut

The Petition of Zachray Johnson Eldest Counsellor of the Mohegan Tribe of Indians in Behalf of himself and Brethren

Humbly Sheweth

That the Mohegan Land which is the Undoubted Inheritance of your Petitioners (the true Mohegan Indians) has been for many Years past, and is at present possessed almost the whole of it, by Foreign Indians and white People, who have Committed great Wastes and Trespasses on the same, Converting the profits arising from said Land to their own private Use whereby the Right Mohegan Indians are deprived of any Advantage, by being Excluded from their Lawful Privileges your Petitioners have applied from Time to Time to the Trustees – appointed for the Mohegan Land, representing their Grievance, but can obtain no Redres, and are rather treated with Contempt

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray the Honourable Assembly to take their Case into their Consideration, and that they would please to appoint some disinterested person to Examin into the premises in behalf of the true Tribe of Mohegan Indians that their Distresses may be relieved, and that their Land may be restored to them, and that those Foreigners who possess the same may be Removed, as at the present the Mohegan Indians seem to be rooted out by Strangers from their Lawful Inheritance, and Your Petitioners as in Duty Bound

shall Ever Pray &ca

Zachry Johnson
Simon ChawChaw
with many others

[verso: blank]

[folio: 2]

Your Petitioners beg Leave further to Inform the Hon. Assembly that they also have greatly Suffered for a long Time past and still do, by the Strangers who build – houses on their Land and plant Corn
without paying any thing for the same
to the knowledge of your petitioners who
humbly apprehend they ought to have some
of the profits arising from the same, as
well as the Strangers who unlawfully Inhabit
on their Land, Your petitioners once more
humbly beg your Honours would Enquire
into these matters and Order some Method
to Redrefs this Grievance, as upon a
moderate Calculation they are certain they
have been Injured in the Value of many
Thousand pounds within a few Years
[ crossed out ] past by the Strangers pofefsing their
land as abovesaid, as they think it very
hard that they, the Rightful owners of
the same should be treated with so much
Contempt, and be Exempted from the least
share of the profit of their Land which
is their True and Undoubted Right

[verso:]

General Asembly Hartford May 2d Thursday AD 1780
Upon the within Petition
320c
Resolved that Jabez H [ illegible ]
Joseph Spencer & William Williams Esqrs be and
and they are hereby appointed a Comtee
(the or any two or them) to repair at some
convenient Time to said Mohegan & there enq[ illegible ]
uire into the State & Circumstances of s'd Tribe & th[ illegible ]
Lands & into the Matters of Complaint [ illegible ]
in the within Petition & to hear all the P[ illegible ]
concernd therein & Report make with their
Opinion of what is proper & expedient to be
done thereon to the General Asembly
at their Selsions in October next

Paifed in the Upper Hou[ illegible ]
Test George Wyllys Secrett
Concurred in the Lower House
Test Jedidiah Strong Clerk

Mohegan Indians
Petition
1780
May Sessions

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